



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

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1463 CHESTNUT GROVE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

January 17, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kenneth H. McMahon, Chairman
W. (Bill) Betts, Jr., Vice Chairman
Daniel W. Magee
Francis J. Dougherty
Raymond T. Stevens
Bob Ricker
Marvin C. Sharp

Steve Martin, Deputy Director State Fire School
Willard F. Preston, III, State Fire Marshal
Sherry Lambertson, Executive Secretary

GUESTS

Grover P. Ingle, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Kenny Pyle, DVFA
Kim Robinson, D.S.F.S.
Richard R. Ward, Assistant State Fire Marshal
R.T. Leicht, SFMO
Ross Megargel, D.O., OEMS
James Cubbage, DVFA
Chris Gentle, CCHS
George L. Kerr, Jr., DSAA
Francis J. Murphy, Public Service Commission Staff Counsel
Andrera Maucher, PSC
Bruce Burcat, PSC
Connie McDowell, PSC
Joann Conaway, PSC Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McMahon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 20, 2005 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Stevens that the minutes of the December 20, 2005 Commission meeting be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

No additional agenda items were requested.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Agency's Activity for the month of December is as follows: investigations 70- (criminal 20- /accidental 45- undetermined 5-); arrests 15-; inspections 888- (health care 38- /deputy 150/tech services -207 "QAP-493"); complaints-34; plan reviews 392-; PRUF revenue collected (Dec.) \$153,102 year to date \$1,167,495; total overtime hours worked (enforcement) 415.0-; time off in hours 202.5 (vacation 202.5- /compensatory leave 75.0- /sick leave 40.0- /holiday 97.5- /compassionate 0.0)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Personnel Issues

Fire Marshal Preston reported State Personnel has requested that the Fire Marshal assist them in grading test for the Deputy Fire Marshal I position in Kent County. An interview list should be available by next week.

Christine Leister from the Georgetown Office has resigned as of February 3, 2006.

DFIRS Update

The following fire companies are delinquent in DFIRS requirements.

- **New Castle County**

Belvedere	November
Cranston Heights	November
Five Points	November
Odessa	July & November
Wilmington Manor	November

- **Kent County**

Clayton	November
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- **Sussex County**

Dagsboro	November
Memorial	November

False Fire Alarms

Fire Marshal Preston gave the Commission a report on False Fire Alarms for review.

Kent County Office Water Issue

Fire Marshal Preston reported that two different well companies have been brought in to research the water problems at the Kent County Office. The water is not fit for consumption, washing hands or showering. Facilities Management has removed the portable bathroom due to cost. The Fire Marshal is attempting to have it returned for his staff on a temporary basis.

Livable Delaware

Fire Marshal Preston reported on a meeting he attended with Livable Delaware. They expressed concerns with State Fire Prevention Commission regulations. The meeting went well. Alternative and Waiver routes were explained to the members of Livable Delaware and architects attending.

Vehicle Usage/Repairs

Fleet Services has changed the vehicle purchasing policy for all state agencies. Vehicles are now required to be leased instead of purchased. The Fire Marshal has presented a case to continue purchasing his agency vehicles. He has not heard back from purchasing.

Fire Fatalities

Fire Marshal Preston reported on fire fatalities in Claymont and New Castle during December. There were 18 fire related deaths in 2005. Both of these fires continue to be under investigation.

Fire Marshal Preston discussed a non-working fire hydrant issue in Claymont. His office is investigating the problem and will report back to the Commission.

WPVI Operation 6 Save A Life Program

WPVI Operation 6 Save A Life Program once again donated 100 smoke alarms to the Fire Marshals Office. Fire Marshal Preston applauds WPVI for all of the hard work they put into getting the message of fire safety out.

Increased Office Security

The Kent County Fire Marshals Office is currently having a locking system installed. This is being done through a DEMA Grant. The Sussex County office will be scheduled to be completed at a later date.

NFPA 921 Meeting

Fire Marshal Preston will be attending the NFPA 921 meeting in Mesa, Arizona, February 6th – 11th.

It was moved by Commissioner Ricker, seconded by Commissioner Dougherty to enter into Executive Session for personnel reasons. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission entered Executive Session at 9:34 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Ricker to go out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission exited the executive Session at 9:54 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

ACTION ITEMS

Personnel

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Ricker that the State Fire Prevention Commission is on record that they favor raising the State Fire Marshals salary. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Ricker to give the State Fire Marshal permission to advertise, interview and hire for the Administrative Specialist I position in Georgetown. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE SCHOOL

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

No report at this time.

REPORT OF THE FIRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Director Kernan sent a thank you to the Commission and Mike Lowe for a successful community television spot, bringing fire safety awareness to the public viewing audience. It was a successful venture.

Kim Robinson attended the Risk Watch Conference in Boston, Mass.

Director Kernan will be out of the office on medical leave for approximately two weeks.

Deputy Director Martin asked the Commission to look at the pictures placed around the building of fire training at the school.

Financial Update

Deputy Director Martin submitted a written financial update. The Fire School remains in good financial shape. The Joint Finance Committee Meeting has been scheduled for February 2nd, and the Director hopes to be back to work by this time and if not Robert Newnam will attend in his place.

Maintenance Issues/Projects

Deputy Director Martin reported that the replacement pump has been installed. It is a substantial improvement from the last pump. Two more pumps will be requested in next years budget.

Del Tech canceled the Del Tech Intro to Fire Class scheduled in Georgetown because they only had one student signed up for the course.

Instructor Change - Update

The instructor changes are on schedule. Chris Murabito is putting in the payroll information in and to this point there have been no major issues.

Director Kernan received correspondence stating that Fire School Instructors do not have to obtain a business license for 2005.

EMS Training Initiative/EMS Seminar

Deputy Director Martin reported that the EMS Seminar went well. He asked that questions be diverted to Sandy Hypes.

Teleconferencing

Teleconferencing equipment has been installed. Working trials are currently taking place through the Fire Marshal's Office.

The school is in the process of putting together a teleconferencing policy.

Upcoming Events

The Pro Board site visit will be scheduled this year.

FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE SCHOOL

No report at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Fire Safety Activity report and Risk Watch report were presented to the Commission for review.

REGULAR SESSION

REPORT OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

No report at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

BLS Medical Director

Dr. Ross Megargel reported on behalf of Dr. Dave Bailey in his absence.

Mr. Ray Fulkrod has left the employment of OEMS and has returned to the field as a Paramedic. This position will be reposted through State Personnel.

American Heart Association has come out with new standards for ALS and BLS. This will put the BLS Standing Orders on hold again while the new standards are reviewed. Most of the changes seem to be in CPR and defibrillation.

The monthly EDIN report for the Commission is not available because of a server shut down for fiber optic problems. This report will be generated for the Commission in the near future.

Dr. Megargel and Chairman McMahon reported on the MISC meeting. They both felt it was productive. An IT Sub-Committee will begin working on technical information to move the CAD interface etc. forward in the process. The sub-committee will meet and report back to the main body at the February 9, 2006 MISC meeting.

Substation Rule

The Commission discussed the regulation regarding the addition of substations to a fire district. It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Commissioner Ricker to request Deputy Attorney General Hanley to draft legislation to submit to the General Assembly to clarify the four-mile rule within district and out of district. Chairman McMahon will select Commissioners to work with DAG Hanley on this project. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Service Commission

Five members of the Public Service Commission met with the Fire Prevention Commission to discuss what each other do and regulations. The main topic of discussion was Extension of Service, and each Commission has a different definition. The Fire Prevention Commission definition of Extension of Service concerns fire protection through a water source. The Public Service Commission definition concerns providing service for customers of new or old residence. The Commission is concerned that the PSC does not take into consideration fire protection when upgrading systems. The PSC is required under their rules to provide adequate and reliable service to the customers. This does not mean that it meets the Fire Marshals rules, just that it has sufficient flow, drinking quality etc. The Fire Commission is concerned that the PSC may only require a four-inch water line and adequate fire protection would require an eight-inch line. Some of it comes down to a financial issue with the builders. Both groups had a lengthy discussion about regulations and the good of the community. It was agreed to meet annually and keep one another up to date with happenings in each agency.

Boyd's Correspondence

The Commission discussed correspondence received from Boyd Services referencing business license use for part-time instructors at the Fire School. Deputy Director Martin stated that Boyd Services has a legitimate request. It was moved by Commissioner Magee, seconded by Vice Chairman Betts to table Boyd Service request until a criteria has been set to deal with business license's for part-time instructor's at the Fire School. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Ricker, seconded by Commissioner Magee to enter into Executive Session for personnel reasons. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission entered Executive Session at 1:19 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Sharp, seconded by Commissioner Magee to go out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission exited the executive Session at 2:18 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

No report at this time.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Kenneth H. McMahon

Chairman McMahon reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, NFPA 1720 Meeting in Orlando, EDIN Committee Meeting, DEMSOC Meeting, NCC Installation Banquet, Medical Director's Meeting, SERC Meeting and Commission Christmas Luncheon.

Commissioner Francis Dougherty

Commissioner Dougherty reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting and Brandywine Hundred Fire Co. Meeting.

Commissioner Marvin Sharp

Commissioner Sharp reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, Installation of Officers at Station 52, Morris King Viewing, Installation of Officer at Station 49, Ladies Night at Station 75 and Viewing of Herb Melvin.

Commissioner Bob Ricker

Commissioner Ricker reported that he attended the Monthly Fire Prevention Commission Meeting, Dempsey Funeral, Livable Delaware Meeting, Press Conference, Morris King Viewing, Sussex Fire School Meeting, Sussex Prep Meeting (SCAT) and Lewes Annual Banquet.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 21, 2006
Commission Chamber
Delaware Fire Service Center
1463 Chestnut Grove Road
Dover, DE 19904

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Ricker, seconded by Commissioner Sharp that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry R. Lambertson
Executive Secretary

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